



Taxonomy & Inventories

New data on the huntsman spiders (*Araneae*, *Sparassidae*) of China

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Abstract

Background

Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872 is the tenth largest family of *Araneae*, with 11 genera and 288 species known in China.

New information

In the current paper, four newly-recorded species from China are provided: *Heteropoda acris* Korai & Jäger, 2024, *Olios sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875), *O. suung* Jäger, 2012 and *Rhitymna plana* Jäger, 2003, of which *O. sericeus* is re-described, based on specimens collected from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. Additionally, a new *Thelcticopis* species, *T. lini* sp. nov., is described.

Keywords

new species, new records, biodiversity, taxonomy, morphology

Introduction

The spider family Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872 is well-known for its large size and ferocious habits. As the tenth-largest family of *Araneae*, Sparassidae contains 1529 species belonging to 98 genera worldwide (World Spider Catalog 2025). Currently, 11 genera and 288 species are recorded in China. Most Chinese genera and species are distributed in southern China, except for *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 and *Micrommata* Latreille, 1804 from north-western China (Hu and Fu 1985, Song et al. 1999, Jäger 2008, Sun et al. 2011, Quan and Liu 2012, Zhong and Liu 2014, Ding et al. 2019, Zhong et al. 2019, Zhang et al. 2023, Hu and Liu 2024, Lin 2024, Zhang et al. 2024). During the examination of sparassid specimens collected from China, four species newly recorded in China and one new species belonging to the genus *Thelcticopis* Karsch, 1884 were identified. The aims of the current paper are to provide photos of the newly-recorded species and to describe a new *Thelcticopis* species from China.

Materials and methods

Specimens examined in this study are deposited in the School of Nuclear Technology and Chemistry & Biology, Hubei University of Science and Technology (HUST) in Xianning. Specimens were examined using an Olympus SZX7 stereomicroscope. Photographs were taken with a Leica M205 C stereomicroscope and final multifocal images were produced with Helicon Focus v. 7.7.0 (Khmelik et al. 2021). The male palps were examined and photographed after dissection. The epigynes were dissected from the spiders' body, examined and then treated in a warmed 0.1 mg/ml Protease K solution before study. All morphological measurements were calculated using a Leica M205 C stereomicroscope. Eye diameters were taken at the widest point. Legs and palp measurements are given as total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus [absent in palp], tarsus). Spination follows that given in Davies (1994). The map was created with ArcGis v. 10.8.1 (Esri 2020). The terminologies used in the text follow Jäger (2020) and Sankaran et al. (2024). All measurements were in millimetres (mm).

Abbreviations: AB = anterior bands; ALE = anterior lateral eye; AME = anterior median eye; C = conductor; CD = copulatory duct; CO = copulatory opening; E = embolus; EA = embolic apophysis; FD = fertilisation duct; Fe = femur; FW = first winding; GP = glandular pore; LL = lateral lobe; MS = median septum; Mt = metatarsus; O = basal embolic outgrowth; Pa = patella; PLE = posterior lateral eye; PME = posterior median eye; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis; Sp = spermophor; SS = slit sensillum; ST = subtegulum; TA = tegular apophysis; Ti = tibia; I, II, III, IV = legs I–IV.

Taxon treatments

Heteropoda acris Korai & Jäger, 2024

Nomenclature

Heteropoda acris: Korai and Jäger (2024): 242, figs. 1A–F, 2A–I, 3A–K, 4A–B and D–E (description of male and female).

Material

- a. continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: CN; stateProvince: Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; county: Fangchenggang City, Shangsi County; verbatimLocality: Shiwandashan National Nature Reserve, Huangpaoshan scenic area; verbatimElevation: 230 m; verbatimLatitude: 21°57'35"N; verbatimLongitude: 108°02'37"E; year: 2024; month: 4; day: 30; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Xiaoran Zhu, Zihao Shen & Likun Dong

Description

See Korai and Jäger (2024) (Fig. 1).

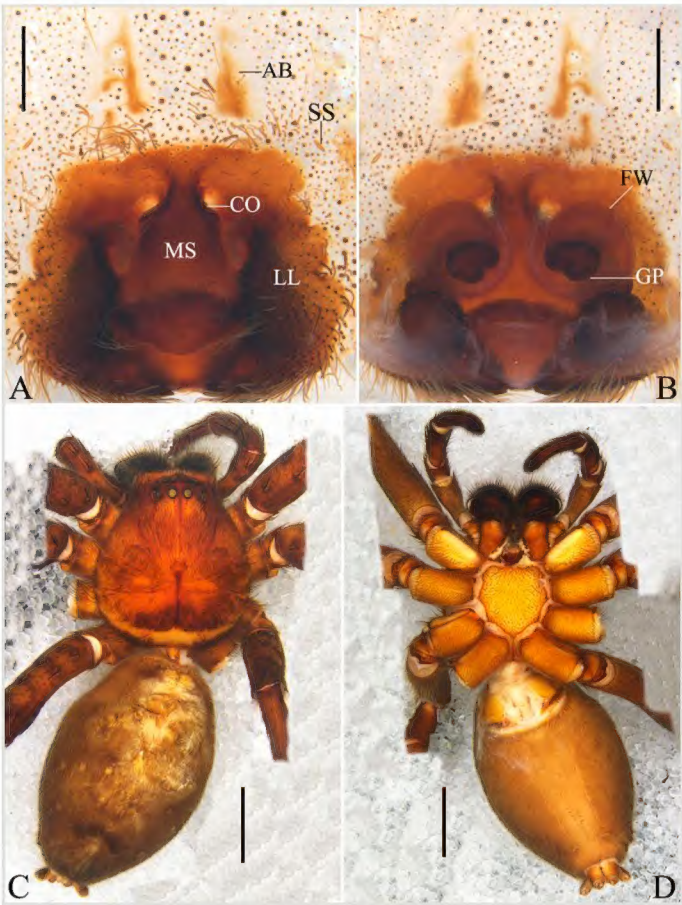


Figure 1. [doi](#)
Female of *Heteropoda acris* Korai & Jäger, 2024 from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. **A** epigyne, ventral view; **B** vulva, dorsal view; **C** habitus, dorsal view; **D** habitus, ventral view. Abbreviations: AB anterior bands; CO copulatory opening; FW first winding; GP glandular pore; LL lateral lobe; MS median septum; SS slit sensillum. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (**A**, **B**); 5 mm (**C**, **D**).

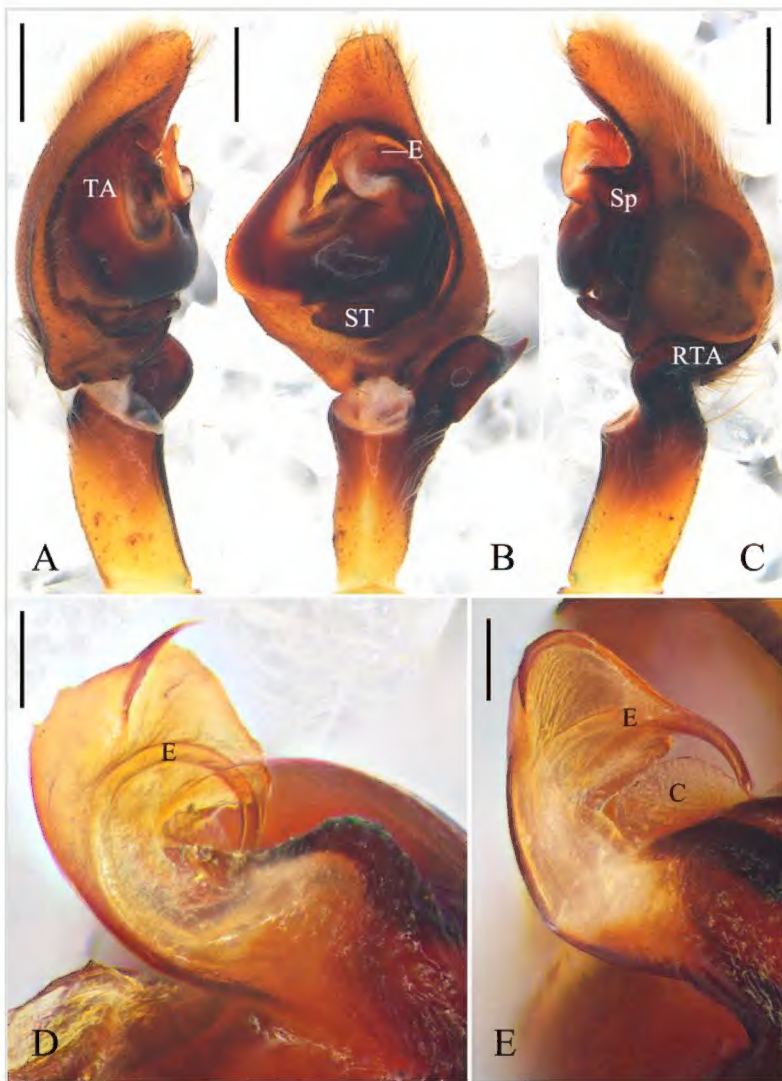


Figure 2. [doi](#)

Left male palp of *Olios sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875) from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. **A** prolateral view; **B** ventral view; **C** retrolateral view; **D** embolus, ventral view; **E** embolus, retrolateral view. Abbreviations: C conductor; E embolus; RTA retrolateral tibial apophysis; Sp spermophor; ST subtegulum; TA tegular apophysis. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (**A–C**); 0.1 mm (**D, E**).

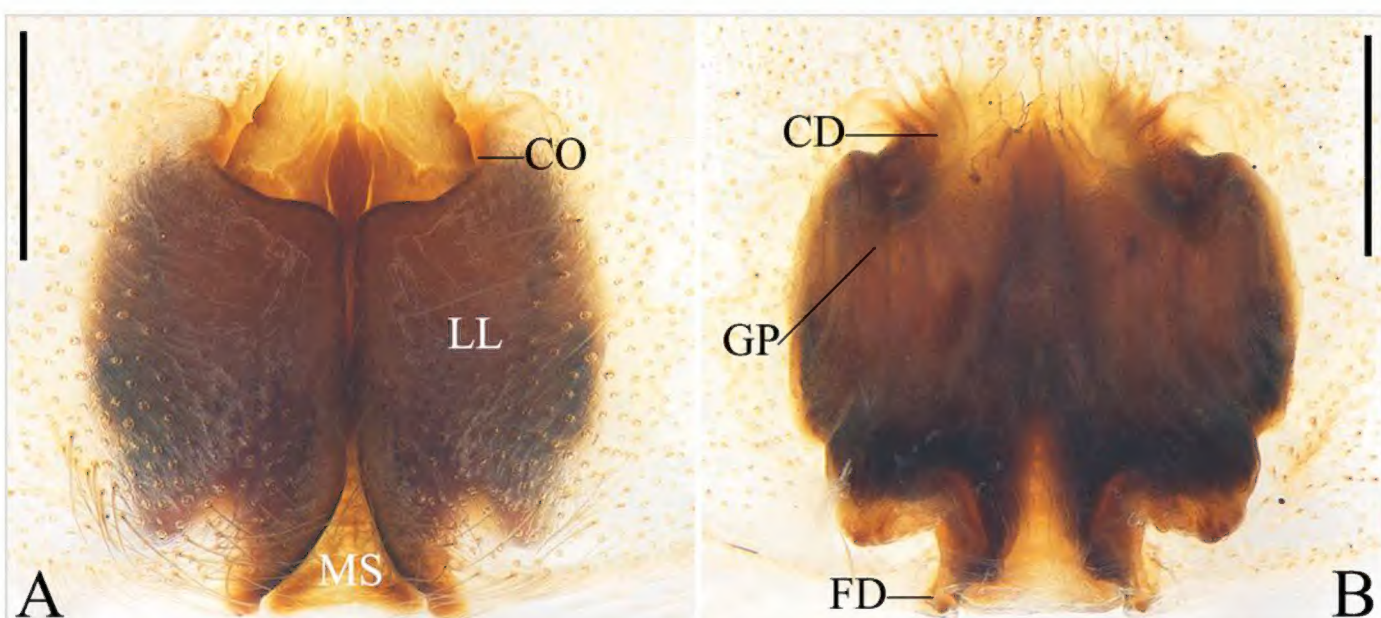


Figure 3. [doi](#)

Epigyne of *Olios sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875) from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. **A** ventral view; **B** dorsal view. Abbreviations: CD copulatory duct; CO copulatory opening; FD fertilisation duct; GP glandular pore; LL lateral lobe; MS median septum. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

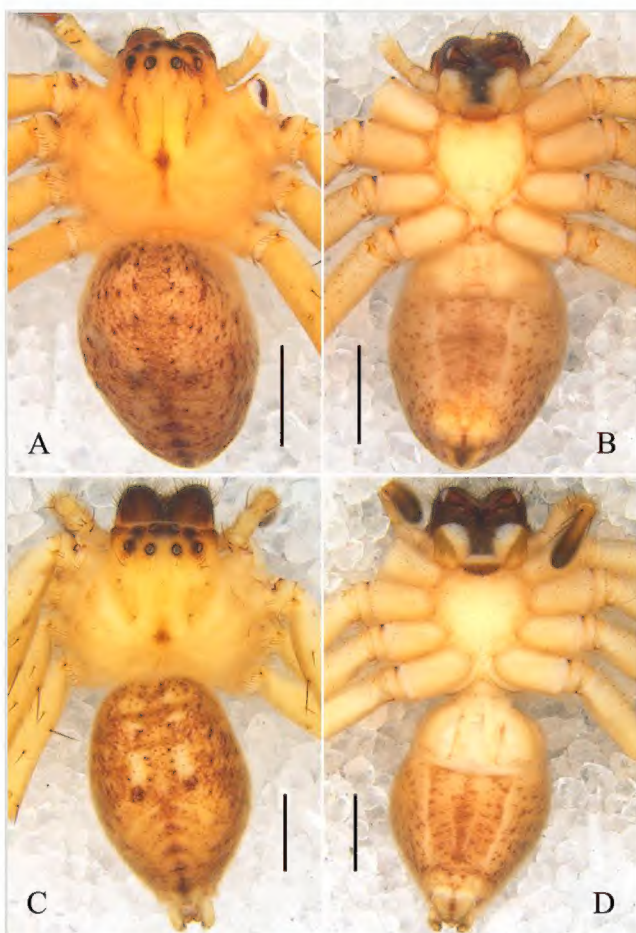


Figure 4. [doi](#)

Habitus of *Ollos sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875) from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. **A** male, dorsal view; **B** male, ventral view; **C** female, dorsal view; **D** female, ventral view. Scale bars: 2 mm.

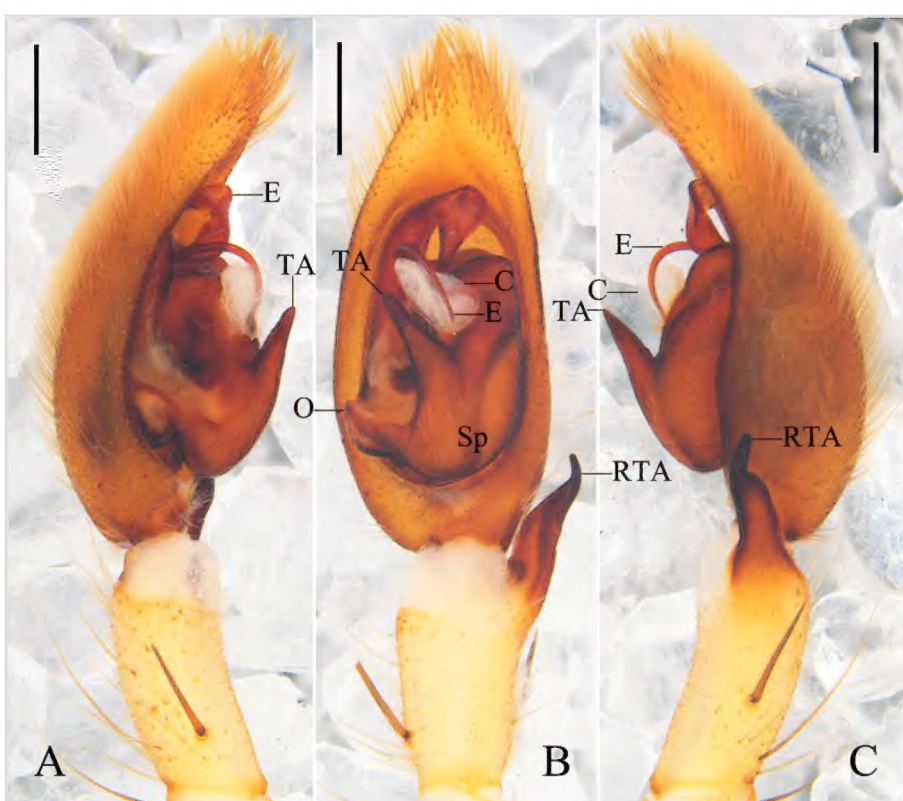


Figure 5. [doi](#)

Left male palp of *Ollos suung* Jäger, 2012 from Yunnan Province, China. **A** prolateral view; **B** ventral view; **C** retrolateral view. Abbreviations: C conductor; E embolus; O basal embolic outgrowth; RTA retrolateral tibial apophysis; Sp spermophor; TA tegular apophysis. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.



Figure 6. [doi](#)

Left male palp of *Rhitymna plana* Jäger, 2003 from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. **A** prolateral view; **B** ventral view; **C** retrolateral view; **D** embolus and embolic apophysis, retrolateral view; **E** retrolateral tibial apophysis, ventral view; **F** retrolateral tibial apophysis, retrolateral view. Abbreviations: E embolus; EA embolic apophysis; RTA retrolateral tibial apophysis; Sp spermophor. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (**A–C**); 0.1 mm (**D**); 0.2 mm (**E, F**).

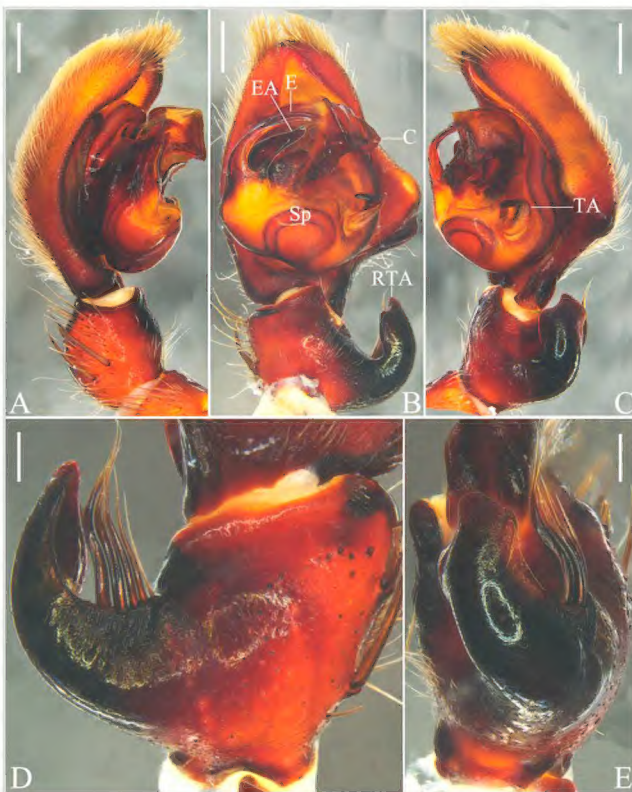


Figure 7. [doi](#)

Left male palp of *Thelcticopis lini* sp. nov. from Hainan Province, China. **A** prolateral view; **B** ventral view; **C** retrolateral view; **D** tibia, dorsal view; **E** tibia, retrolateral view. Abbreviations: C conductor; E embolus; EA embolic apophysis; RTA retrolateral tibial apophysis; Sp spermophor; TA tegular apophysis. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (**A–C**); 0.2 mm (**D, E**).

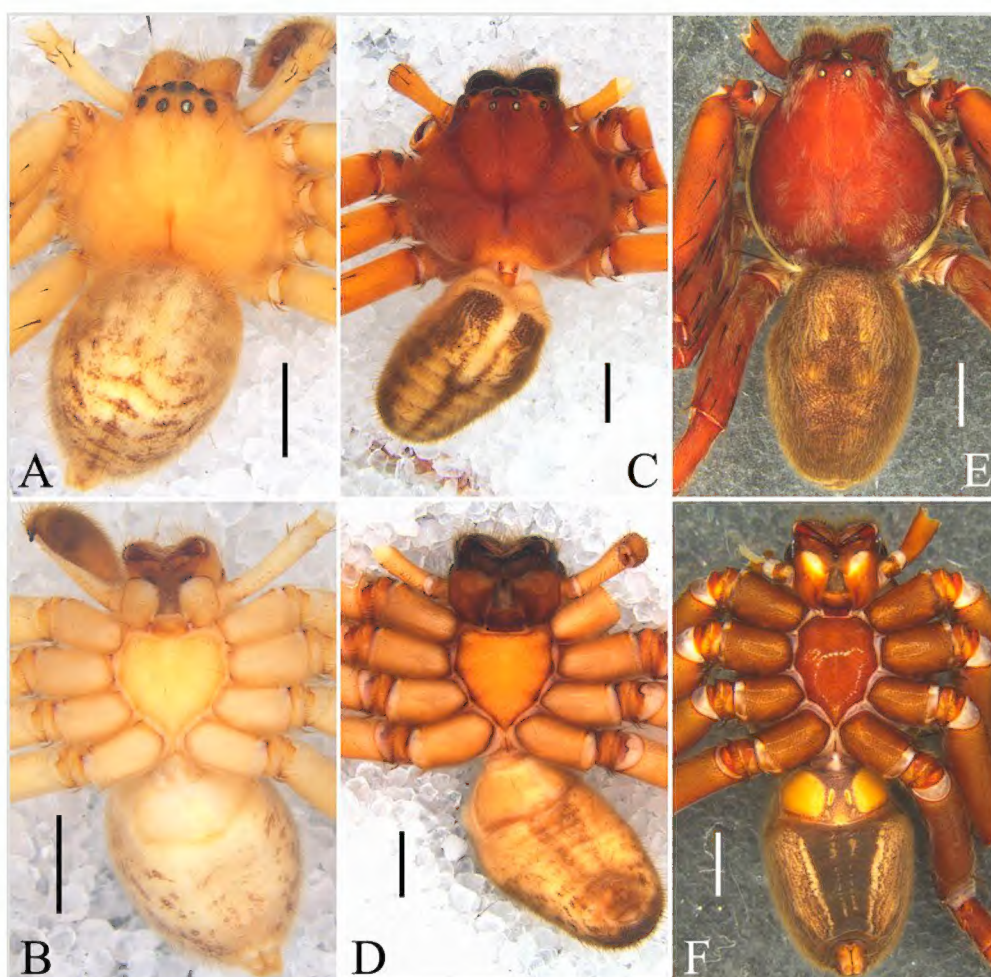


Figure 8. [doi](#)

Male habitus. **A, B** *Olios suung* Jäger, 2012 from Yunnan Province, China; **C, D** *Rhitymna plana* Jäger, 2003 from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China; **E, F** *Thelcticopis lini* sp. nov. from Hainan Province, China. **A, C, E** dorsal view; **B, D, F** ventral view. Scale bars: 2 mm.

Diagnosis

See Korai and Jäger (2024).

Distribution

China (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, new record, Fig. 9), Vietnam.

Olios sericeus (Kroneberg, 1875)

Nomenclature

Sparassus sericeus: Kroneberg (1875): 28, pl. 3, fig. 19 (description of male and female).

Olios sericeus: Simon (1880): 298; Jäger and Otto (2007): 20, figs. 1–16; Tabrizi et al. (2015): 338, figs. 1–4; Moradmand et al. (2015): 78, figs. 1A–E and 2A–C; Khasayeva and Huseynov (2019): 359, figs. 9–10; Nadolny and Yemets (2024): 11, figs. 1A–G and 2A–S.

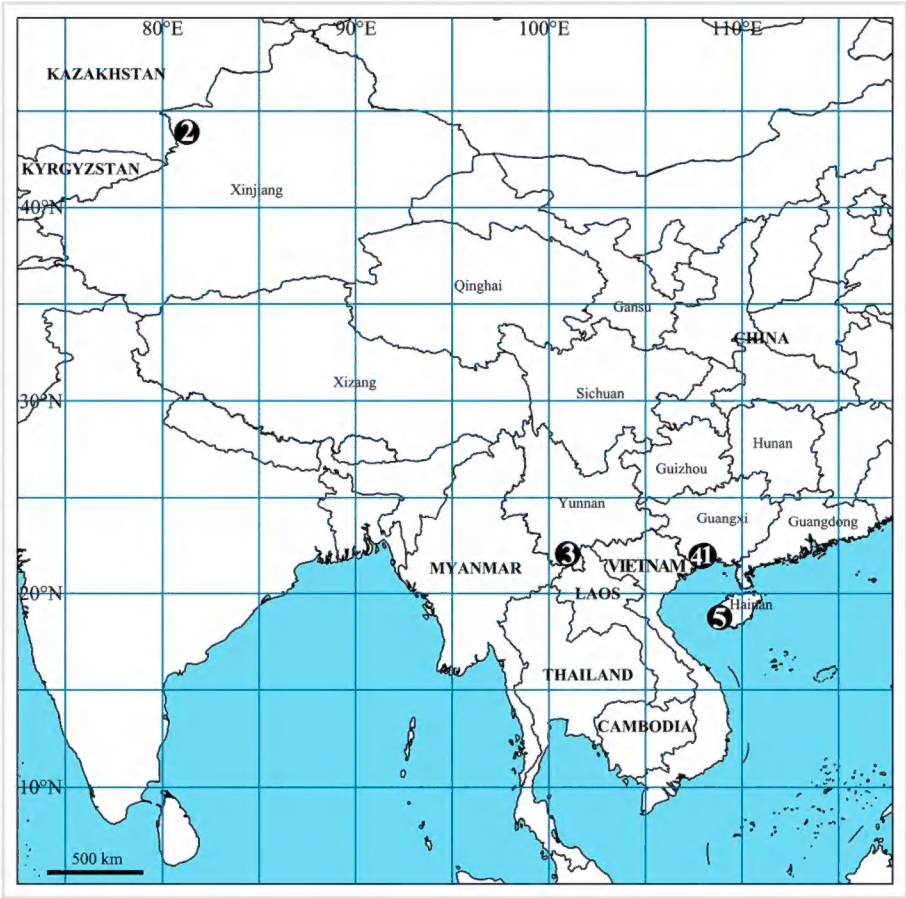


Figure 9. [doi](#)
Collection locality of sparassid specimens in the current paper from China. **1** *Heteropoda acris* Korai & Jäger, 2024; **2** *Olios sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875); **3** *O. suung* Jäger, 2012; **4** *Rhitymna plana* Jäger, 2003; **5** *Thelcticopis lini* sp. nov.

Material

- a. continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: CN; stateProvince: Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region; county: Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Yining City; verbatimElevation: 790 m; verbatimLatitude: 43°54'34"N; verbatimLongitude: 81°16'38"E; year: 2023; month: 6; day: 25; individualCount: 2; sex: 1 male 1 female; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Yaoyu Jiang

Description

Male: Total length 8.5, carapace 3.8 length, 3. 8 width, anterior width of carapace 2.1, opisthosoma 4.7 length, 3.5 width. Eyes AME 0.24, ALE 0.24, PME 0.23, PLE 0.25, AME–AME 0.20, AME–ALE 0.05, PME–PME 0.31, PME–PLE 0.30, AME–PME 0.21, ALE–PLE 0.18, clypeus height of AME 0.10, clypeus height of ALE 0.20. Spination: Palp: 121, 000, 1001; Fe: I–III 323, IV 321; Pa: I–IV 000; Ti: I–III 2124, IV 2024; Mt: I–III 2024, IV 3035. Measurements of palp and legs: Palp 4.8 (1.6, 0.4, 0.9, –, 1.9), I 20.0 (5.6, 1.8, 5.7, 5.2, 1.7), II 22.8 (6.6, 1.9, 6.6, 5.9, 1.8), III 15.2 (4.9, 1.4, 4.1, 3.6, 1.2), IV 17.2 (5.2, 1.5, 4.5, 4.5, 1.5). Leg formula: II-I-IV-III. Chelicerae with two anterior and five posterior teeth.

Palp as in diagnosis. Tibia almost three times longer than wide. Retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) horn-shaped, extended dorsally, arising from distal tibia. Cymbium almost 1.5 times longer than tibia. Subtegulum (ST) located basal-retrolaterally.

Tegular apophysis (TA) massive, with serrated prolateral margin. Conductor (C) semicircular, covered by embolus (E) in ventral view. Embolus (E) curved and small, arising from tegulum at 12 o'clock position, with a small and pointed projection (Fig. 2).

Carapace light yellow, with brown fovea, head region with five brown longitudinal lines. Chelicerae brown, with brown hairs. Sternum light yellow. Endites and labium yellow, with white distal part. Palps and legs orange. Opisthosoma yellow, with brown spots, posterior dorsum with some yellow inverted V-shaped lines, venter with two yellow longitudinal lines. Spinnerets yellow (Fig. 4A and B).

Female: Total length 10.3, carapace 4.4 length, 5.0 width, anterior width of carapace 2.9, opisthosoma 5.9 length, 4.0 width. Eyes AME 0.22, ALE 0.24, PME 0.23, PLE 0.23, AME–AME 0.31, AME–ALE 0.20, PME–PME 0.51, PME–PLE 0.39, AME–PME 0.39, ALE–PLE 0.30, clypeus height of AME 0.11, clypeus height of ALE 0.15. Spination: Palp: 131, 001, 1011, 1012; Fe: I 223, II–III 323, IV 321; Pa: I–IV 000; Ti: I–III 2024, IV 2004; Mt: I–III 2024, IV 3035. Measurements of palp and legs: Palp 5.6 (1.7, 0.6, 1.2, –, 2.1), I 19.0 (5.5, 2.1, 5.0, 4.7, 1.7), II 21.2 (6.2, 2.1, 5.8, 5.3, 1.8), III 15.2 (4.7, 1.7, 3.7, 3.7, 1.4), IV 16.7 (5.3, 1.7, 4.1, 4.2, 1.4). Leg formula: II-I-IV-III. Chelicerae with two to three anterior and six to seven posterior teeth.

Epigyne as in diagnosis. Epigynal field almost as long as wide. Lateral lobes (LL) almost two thirds length of epigynal field, with wide U-shaped anterior margins and median slit diverging triangularly posterior. Internal duct system with glandular pores (GP) close to copulatory openings (CO). Fertilisation ducts (FD) located posteriorly (Fig. 3).

Colouration as in male, generally lighter (Fig. 4C and D).

Diagnosis

Males of *Olios sericeus* are similar to those of *O. japonicus* Jäger & Ono, 2000 (cf. Fig. 2 and figs. 10–13 in Jäger and Ono (2000)) and *O. mahabangkawitus* Barrion & Litsinger, 1995 (cf. Fig. 2 and fig. 166b in Barrion and Barrion (1995) and fig. 16 in Jäger and Ono (2000)) in having horn-shaped retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA), basal-retrolaterally located subtegulum (ST), embolus (E) arising from tegulum at 12 o'clock position, but can be distinguished by: 1. Retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) extended dorsally in retrolateral view (vs. extended ventrally in *O. japonicus* and *O. mahabangkawitus*); 2. Tegular apophysis (TA) massive, almost three times wider than embolus (E) (vs. almost as wide as embolus (E) in *O. japonicus* and *O. mahabangkawitus*); and 3. Embolus (E) with a small and pointed projection (vs. absent in *O. japonicus* and *O. mahabangkawitus*). Females of *O. sericeus* are similar to those of *O. rossettii* (Leardi, 1901) (cf. Fig. 3 and figs. 153–155 in Jäger (2020)) in having touching lateral lobes (LL), but can be distinguished by: 1. Anterior margins of lateral lobes (LL) wide U-shaped (vs. V-shaped in *O. rossettii*); and 2. Median slit diverging triangularly posteriorly (vs. not diverging in *O. rossettii*).

Distribution

China (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, new record, Fig. 9), Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Notes

Olios sericeus belongs to the *Olios rossettii*-group, which is characterised by a small U-shaped embolus (E) arising centrally to sub-centrally from the tegulum in males and strongly sclerotised epigyne with a hardly traceable internal duct system in females (Jäger 2020). This species was originally described by Kroneberg 150 years ago based on two male and seven female specimens from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan (Kroneberg 1875); since then, few additional descriptions of this species have been provided (Jäger and Otto 2007, Tabrizi et al. 2015, Moradmand et al. 2015, Nadolny and Yemets 2024). Therefore, we re-describe *O. sericeus*, based on specimens collected from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China.

Nadolny and Yemets (2024) noted that specimens of *O. sericeus* from Crimea and Asia show differences in the details of their copulatory organs. Specimens from Crimea have a longer cymbium and the vulva is three times wider than epigynal collar. In contrast, specimens from Asia have a shorter cymbium and the vulva is twice as wide as the epigynal collar. Our specimens from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, match the characteristics of the Asian specimens provided by Nadolny and Yemets (2024).

Olios suung Jäger, 2012

Nomenclature

Olios suung: Jäger (2012): 64, figs. 9–12 and 24–26 (description of male).

Material

- a. continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: CN; stateProvince: Yunnan Province; county: Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Jinghong City; verbatimLocality: rubber forest on the edge of urban area; verbatimElevation: 1318 m; verbatimLatitude: 22°01'18"N; verbatimLongitude: 100°58'21"E; year: 2016; month: 3; day: 6; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Chaotai Wei

Description

See Jäger (2012) (Figs 5, 8A and B).

Diagnosis

See Jäger (2012).

Distribution

China (Yunnan Province, new record, Fig. 9), Laos.

Rhitymna plana* Jäger, 2003*Nomenclature**

Rhitymna plana: Jäger (2003): 119, figs. 75–82 (description of female); Jäger (2007): 56, figs. 96–97; Jäger (2019): 448, figs. 12–15 and 20–25 (description of male).

Material

- a. continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: CN; stateProvince: Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; county: Fangchenggang City, Shangsi County; verbatimLocality: Guangxi Shiwandashan National Forest Park; verbatimElevation: 590 m; verbatimLatitude: 21°53'28"N; verbatimLongitude: 107°53'50"E; year: 2017; month: 6; day: 7; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; recordedBy: Shengming Liang

Description

See Jäger (2019) (Figs 6, 8C and D).

Diagnosis

See Jäger (2019).

Distribution

China (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, new record, Fig. 9), Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.

***Thelcticopis lini* sp. nov.**

- ZooBank [D2B06A65-9B44-4571-AB53-BEB3BDEAEE6A](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1234567/v1)

Material***Holotype*:**

- a. continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: CN; stateProvince: Hainan Province; county: Ledong Li Autonomous County; verbatimLocality: Hainan Jianfengling National Forest Park, Mingfenggu; verbatimElevation: 989 m; verbatimLatitude: 18°44'30"N; verbatimLongitude: 108°50'30"E; year: 2018; month: 4; day: 20; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: HNJFL-18-09; recordedBy: Yejie Lin, Jiaxiang Wu & Rixin Jiang

Description

Male: Total length 13.9, carapace 7.1 length, 6.2 width, anterior width of carapace 3.4, opisthosoma 7.0 length, 4.6 width. Eyes AME 0.37, ALE 0.25, PME 0.22, PLE 0.26, AME–AME 0.28, AME–ALE 0.28, PME–PME 0.62, PME–PLE 0.69, AME–PME 0.24, ALE–PLE 0.24, clypeus height of AME 0.23, clypeus height of ALE 0.22. Spination: Palp: 131, 101, 3060; Fe: I–II 323, III–IV 321; Pa: I–IV 000; Ti: I–II 212(10), III–IV 2126; Mt: I–II 2022, III 3032, IV 3034. Measurements of palp and legs: Palp 7.2 (2.3, 1.0, 1.3, –, 2.6), I 23.7 (6.2, 2.6, 7.4, 5.8, 1.7), II 23.3 (6.9, 2.7, 6.7, 5.4, 1.6), III 18.4 (5.6, 2.3, 4.7, 4.2, 1.6), IV 23.1 (6.9, 2.2, 5.8, 6.3, 1.9). Leg formula: I–II–IV–III. Chelicerae with three anterior and five to six posterior teeth.

Palp as in diagnosis. Tibia almost as long as wide. Retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) strongly curved, with irregular-shaped tip; bunch of six to seven setae arising from basal part and one strong seta arising from distal part and elongate ventrally (intersects the margin of retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA), see Fig. 7E). Cymbium almost twice longer than tibia. Spermathor (Sp) oval in ventral view. Tegular apophysis (TA) straight in retrolateral view, originating from a membrane. Distal conductor (C) rectangular in lateral view. Embolus (E) curved, arising from tegulum at 10 o'clock position, with a lamellar embolic apophysis (EA) on basal embolus (E) (Fig. 7).

Carapace reddish-brown, with golden hairs. Chelicerae brown, with brown hairs. Sternum reddish-brown, with brown margin. Endites and labium brown with yellow distal part. Legs brown to yellowish-brown, with golden hairs. Opisthosoma brown, dorsum with dark yellow markings, venter with some yellow longitudinal lines. Spinnerets orange (Fig. 8E and F).

Female: unknown.

Diagnosis

Males of *Thelcticopis lini* sp. nov. are similar to those of *T. severa* (L. Koch, 1875) (cf. Fig. 7 and figs. 2A–D in Zhu et al. (2020)) and *T. bicornuta* Pocock, 1901 (cf. Fig. 7 and figs. 4E, F, 5A and B in Sankaran et al. (2024)) in having a bunch of strong setae arising from basal retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA), one strong seta arising from distal retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA), the tegular apophysis (TA) originating from a membrane and the curved embolus (E) with a lamellar embolic apophysis (EA), but can be distinguished by: 1. The tip of retrolateral tibial apophysis (RTA) irregular-shaped, with three peaks (vs. rounded in *T. severa* and *T. bicornuta*); 2. Tegular apophysis (TA) straight in retrolateral view (vs. hook-shaped in *T. severa* and *T. bicornuta*); and 3. Embolic apophysis (EA) almost four fifths of the length of embolus (E) in ventral view (vs. almost two thirds in *T. severa* and *T. bicornuta*).

Etymology

This new species is named after Mr. Yejie Lin (Imperial College London, United Kingdom), who made significant contribution to the taxonomy of spiders.

Distribution

Known only from the type locality (Fig. 9).

Acknowledgements

We thanks to the collectors for providing specimens. We also give thanks to Mr. Yunshan Yang (Beijing Jiaotong University, China) for his help in species identification. This manuscript benefitted greatly from the subject editor Dr. Yanfeng Tong (Shenyang Normal University, China), the reviewers Dr. Jie Liu (Hubei University, China), Dr. Zhiyuan Yao (Shenyang Normal University, China) and Dr. Hao Yu (Guizhou Normal University, China). This study was supported by the National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC-32300378, 32000303) and the Natural Sciences Foundation of Hubei Province (2024AFC060).

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